(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to deal with such a situation ;

(e) whether Government are also considering to reduce the time limit for levy of anti-dumping duty, from one year to six months; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is reviewing the provisions in the Indian Customs Tariff Act relating to anti-dumping duties to bring Indian law in conformity with the agreement reached in the Uruguay Round Final Act.

(c) and (d) Anti-dumping actions are initiated on the complaint of the affected industry. After scrutiny of the allegations of dumping and injury, Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on import of PVC resin from Brazil, Republic of Korea, Mexico and USA and on import of Biophenol-A from Japan. Anti-dumping duty on import of Isobutyl Benzene from People's Republic of China has been imposed provisionally. Anti-dumping investigations concerning import of Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde (TMBA); Theophylline and Caffeine have been initiated.

(e) and (f) The agreement on anti-dumping in the Uruguay Round Final Act stipulate that aniti-dumping investigations shall, except in special circumstances, be concluded within one year, and in no case more than 18 months, after their initiation.

Removal of restrictions on export of agricultural commodities

738. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the restrictions on export of agricultural commodities will be removed completely in the liberalised economy when the agricultural import is allowed freely and frequently; and

(b) what are the names of agricultural items which can be exported freely at present ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) All agricultural commodities are freely permitted for export except those included in the Negative List of Exports as given in Chapter XVI of the Exim Policy (RE March, 1994). Besides, certain other agricultural commodities are allowed for export without a licence but subject to specified conditions as listed in Public Notice No. 15 dated 31-3-93 appearing at Appendix XL III (i) of Handbook on Procedure (RE March 1994).

While maximising foreign exchange earnings from the agricultural sector to the benefit of the farmers, the policy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security. It is with this objective in mind that Government have placed restrictions like licensing, quantitative ceilings and Minimum Export Price, on items such as pulses, cereals, oilseeds, milk, milk products and sugar.

Indian private investment in China

739. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that China has invited Indian private investment in that country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and how many businessmen are expected to come forward for the private investment over there and the areas where such private investment is likely to come from ?